# A NARRATIVE

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# GOVERNORS

OF THE

# GRAMMAR-SCHOOL IN BRUTON,

FROM

THE DEATH OF THE LATE LORD BERKELEY
TO THE PRESENT TIME.

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO

THE NEIGHBOURING NOBILITY AND GENTLEMEN,
NATURAL GUARDIANS OF THE SCHOOL
BY THEIR SITUATION;

AND

SUBMITTED TO THE PERUSAL OF ALL WHO MAY BE
INTERESTED IN ITS WELL-BEING.

---

BY THE MASTER.

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Semper ego auditor [illegible] nunquamne reponam
Vexatus toties? JUV.

Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.
SHAKESPEARE.

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A

# NARRATIVE, &c.

THE man who holds a publick office is reſponſible to the publick for his conduct in it. Of this denomination is the Maſterſhip of an endowed Grammar-School. The publick has a juſt claim on every Maſter of ſuch a School for the conſtant exertion of his literary abilities. From ſuch a diſcharge of his duty, and from ſuch alone, he may have reaſon to hope for the favour and patronage of a diſcerning neighbourhood.

An equal degree of reſponſibility to the publick tribunal, the Truſtees or Governors of an endowed Grammar-School ſubject themſelves to on *their* entrance into office. True it is, that they act in a different department from that of the Maſter. But unleſs their endeavours co-operate with his exertions, the wiſhes and expectations of the publick

are not likely to be fully anſwered. *Their* countenance is neceſſary to *his* ſucceſs. But if, inſtead of giving him their friendly aid and protection, to ſweeten his toils of duty, and to ſmooth its rugged paths, they unhappily reſolve to oppoſe every effort he can make, ſuch unhappy reſolutions are the certain forerunners of ruin and deſtruction: vain and fruitleſs are all ſubſequent hopes of ſucceſs: an unnatural oppoſition from this quarter ſuddenly blaſts the expectations both of the publick and of the maſter: *actum eſt, ilicet, periiſti.*

Short as I wiſh the following narrative to be, neceſſity will, I fear, compel me to protract it to a length agreeable neither to my reader nor myſelf.

In the year 1769 I received my appointment to the Maſterſhip of Bruton School, in the following form:——

" Know all men by theſe preſents, that the Right
" Hon. John Lord Berkeley, Thomas Sampſon,
" Robert Pavy, John Dampier, George Cox,
" William Vigar, Gerard Martin, Harry Albin
" Martin, Joſeph Whitehead, John Morren, Thomas
" Whitehead, William Snooke, Governors of the
" Free Grammar-School of King Edward the Sixth

" in

" in Bruton, in the county of Somerſet, by virtue
" and in purſuance of the power and authority to
" them given, in and by the charter granted in the
" reign of the ſaid King, and of all and every or
" any other power and authority in them veſted or
" repoſed, have nominated and appointed, and by
" theſe preſents do nominate and appoint Edward
" Michell, late of Kingſbridge in the county of
" Devon, but now of Bruton aforeſaid, Clerk,
" from the date hereof to be Maſter of the ſaid
" School, as long as he ſhall behave well in his
" office, for the education, teaching, and inſtruction
" of youth in grammar. And we do further ap-
" point him, during ſuch time for the purpoſe
" aforeſaid, the poſſeſſion, uſe, and occupation of
" the ſaid ſchool, ſchool-houſe, garden, green, and
" appurtenances to the ſame belonging, and an
" annual ſtipend or ſalary of fifty pounds, clear of
" all deductions, to be iſſued and paid to him by
" equal half-yearly payments at Chriſtmas and
" Midſummer, out of the rents, revenues, and pro-
" fits of the lands, tenements, hereditaments, or
" other emoluments belonging or appertaining to
" the ſaid ſchool, the firſt payment to be made on
" Chriſtmas-day next enſuing the date hereof. In
" witneſs whereof the ſaid Governors have put their
" common ſeal and ſubſcribed their names to theſe

" preſents, the fourteenth day of Auguſt one thou-
" ſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-nine.

" *Berkeley,*
" *John Dampier,*
" *Gerard Martin,*
" *Thomas Whitehead,*
" *Joſeph Whitehead,*
" *Harry Albin Martin,*
" *John Morren,*
" *William Snooke.*

" I do approve of the within appointment,

" *E. Bath & Wells.*"

Here I would obſerve, that Mr. H. A. Martin, who drew the appointment, informed me that the words *clear of all deductions* would fully anſwer the intention of the Governors, by guarding me againſt expences of any kind. On this aſſurance, a fair copy was drawn for the ſignature of the Governors. The ſchool, at which not a ſingle boy had been educated for fourteen years immediately preceding my appointment, now began to revive. I had ſeveral young gentlemen from Devonſhire and this neighbourhood in my houſe, and many day-boys from the town and circumjacent villages.

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In the year 1771, the late Lord Berkeley, ſeeing the duty to be done by the Maſter more than equal to the emoluments of his office, propoſed to the Governors, that with a view of raiſing my ſalary he would pay off their debt of 250l. This liberal offer was gladly accepted. In conſequence of this diſcharge of the debt, the following appointment was drawn by Mr. H. A. Martin, and approved of by the Governors:

" Whereas Edward Michell, of Bruton in the " county of Somerſet, Clerk, by deed of appoint- " ment dated the fourteenth day of Auguſt 1769, " duly executed and confirmed, was elected and " appointed Maſter of the Free Grammar-School " of King Edward the Sixth in Bruton aforeſaid, as " long as he ſhould behave well in his office; with " an appointment of a ſtipend or ſalary of fifty " pounds a year, clear of all deductions, to be iſſu- " ing and paid out of the rents, revenues, and pro- " fits of the lands, tenements, hereditaments, or " other emoluments, belonging or appertaining to " the ſaid ſchool, which was as much as could then " be appropriated to his uſe, paying a proper atten- " tion to the diſcharge of a debt of 250l. due from " the ſaid ſchool; but the ſaid 250l. having been " ſince paid off and diſcharged by the Right Hon.

" John

" John Lord Berkeley, Baron of Stratton, for the " benefit and advantage of the ſaid Edward Michell " and the ſucceeding Maſters for the time being, " We, the Governors of the ſaid ſchool, whoſe " names are hereunder ſubſcribed, duly conſidering " the ſtate of the ſaid ſchool revenues and diſburſe- " ments, therefore, and in purſuance of the powers " to us given in and by the charter granted by " Edward the Sixth, by and with the advice and con- " ſent of the Right Worſhipful the Lord Biſhop of " Bath and Wells, have nominated and appointed, " and by theſe preſents do nominate and appoint to " and for him the ſaid Edward Michell, as long as " he ſhall continue and be Maſter of the ſaid ſchool, " the further annual ſtipend or ſalary of thirty " pounds (making with the fifty pounds the yearly " ſum of eighty pounds) clear of all deductions, to " be iſſuing and paid him yearly, and on Midſum- " mer-day in every year, out of the rents, revenues, " and profits of the lands, tenements, hereditа- " ments, or other emoluments belonging or apper- " taining to the ſaid ſchool, the firſt payment to be " made on the 24th day of June next enſuing the " date hereof.

" In witneſs whereof the ſaid Governors have " put their common ſeal, and ſubſcribed their " names

" names to theſe preſents, the thirtieth day of " November one thouſand ſeven hundred and " ſeventy-one.

" *E. Bath & Wells.*

" *Berkeley,*
" *Joſeph Whitehead,*
" *Harry Albin Martin,*
" *Gerard Martin,*
" *Thomas Whitehead,*
" *William Snooke,*
" *Charles Moore,*
" *George Cox,*
" *John Morren.*"

There was now every appearance of a riſing ſchool. In the midſt of this pleaſing proſpect, a ſudden coolneſs towards me on the part of two of the leading Governors aroſe, a coolneſs unaccountable then, and unaccounted for to this day. I begged an explanation; none could be obtained. Whoever has experienced a ſimilar treatment, will be enabled to judge of my feelings. The conſideration of my Lord Berkeley's advanced age, at whoſe death the ſole government of the ſchool would in fact devolve on theſe my two cool friends, determined me to take the firſt convenient opportunity of leaving Bruton. A very advantageous

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one ſoon preſented itſelf; a ſchool became vacant worth 300l. a year, excluſive of boarders. To my unalterable friend, my Lord Berkeley, I made my requeſt to procure it for me. His Lordſhip was pleaſed to expreſs his wiſhes that I would not think of removing; but on his ſeeing me reſolved, he kindly complied with my requeſt. By my Lord Berkeley's application to Lord Godolphin, I received an offer of the ſchool from the Mayor and Corporation. The ſequel I bluſh to relate, as it will exhibit a ſtrong proof of my own folly in the extreme. During my abſence from Bruton to wait on Lord Berkeley in London, it became known that I was about to leave my ſchool here. Upon this, the moſt earneſt application was again and again made to my family before my return home, by one of the above Governors, requeſting them to endeavour to influence me to remain here. This requeſt was not complied with. Further applications were made before my return, with a promiſe that the houſe ſhould be put into any ſtate my family would wiſh, and that the whole ſhould be handſome, and (to borrow an epithet) *decorous.* At my return, I was aſſured by the ſame Governor, that if I would remain here, my ſchool ſhould be equal in point of advantage to that which I had now accepted. In ſhort, the gentleman aſſured me

of

of every thing great, *modo non montes auri pollicens.* Such aſſurances on one ſide, and a certainty of Lord Berkeley's friendſhip on the other, I unfortunately permitted to weigh with me. His Lordſhip, with his wonted benevolence, eaſily admitted of my apology for having given himſelf trouble: and by his direction I wrote a letter to the Mayor of the town, containing my beſt thanks for the favour conferred on me, but that my views here were altered, &c. Here was I now once again ſettled, and once again my old friends ſpeedily reverted to their former coolneſs. The death of Lord Berkeley too ſoon plained the way to a more open attack. The neceſſary repairs of the ſchool-houſe were almoſt totally neglected, and the greater part of it was become unfit for the reception of Gentlemen's ſons. The glaſs of the windows was permitted to remain broken for years: and on my ſending to a ſenior warden, that quantities of ſnow were driven into my own ſleeping-room through the broken panes, I received the polite and memorable anſwer, that "I had nothing to do but to ſhovel it out again;" and I have been neceſſitated to apply for a long continuance paper as a ſubſtitute for glaſs. The ſchool, however, continued ſtill to thrive: and my ſucceſs in it was, I believe, deemed an intolerable injury. The neglect of the ſchool-houſe was

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not conſidered as a puniſhment adequate to the gratification of that unnatural thirſt for vengeance, which a mental dropſy had raiſed. On a certain afternoon the late Mr. Martin called on Mr. Hunt, then reſident at Pitcombe. If an event leſs ſerious than the deſtruction of that fabrick, which I had been for ſeveral years raiſing, had been the conſequence of their ſhort converſation; if the ruin of a ſchool eſſentially intereſting to this town and neighbourhood, had not been the ſpeedy effect of this laconic conference; and if the publick had not a right to be informed of the cauſe of the rapid decay of the ſchool: in ſhort, if the voice of cogent neceſſity did not call on me, the name of Mr. Martin, to whom I have been indebted for various civilities, would have been unſeen in this narrative. No other emotion, than that which originates from compaſſion, can be ſuppoſed to have poſſeſſion of the human breaſt, after ſo long a ſeries of years, upon reflecting on the frailty of a fellow-creature. Nor at ſuch an interval will any ſoliloquy proceed from the lips, of a tendency differing from *Alas! poor human nature!*

Mr. Hunt invited his friend to alight and walk in, at the ſame time telling him that ſeveral gentlemen of Mr. M's acquaintance were with him.

Mr.

Mr. M. excuſed himſelf, by replying, that he was engaged to attend a ſchool-meeting at Bruton, in order *to turn out the Maſter*.

Gentlemen converſant in ſchools, well know ſucceſs in them to be very unſtable and fluctuating, even where the efforts of all parties concerned are made in favour and ſupport of them. But when ſuch an expreſſion as the above is made uſe of by a leading Governor of a ſchool, and a man of weight in the neighbourhood; one ſuch breath of rough air blaſts and withers the faireſt and moſt promiſing bloſſoms. Though none of the young gentlemen then at the ſchool were taken off, yet the ſchool ſoon became a declining one; their ſucceſſors were very few.

Now from the legality of the Maſter's appointments, and from the line of conduct which he invariably purſued, the Governors well knew ſuch a meaſure as the above to be impracticable. However, the attempt anſwered an end ſuch as it was; or rather the *report*; for an attempt was never meant. But leſt the ſucceſs of the Maſter ſhould perchance ſurvive the wound already inflicted, another energetic attempt, of a tendency perfectly ſimilar to that of the former, was made, an attempt diſtinguiſhed by an equal degree of candour reſpecting

ſpecting the Maſter, and of regard to the well-being of the School. The ſame Governors, who, on my appointment to the ſchool, advertiſed that the ſchool-houſe was properly fitted up for the reception of young gentlemen as boarders, (which advertiſement I have by me) thoſe ſame Governors now *inſiſted on my having no right to take boarders, and that the free boys had a claim on me for my whole attention.* The former attempt was confeſſedly made againſt the Maſter: but by the latter, Gentlemen of the firſt fortunes are prohibited from ſending their ſons to this ſchool, but on the footing of free-boys. The two Mr. Uphills, of Lamyatt and Lydford, were each about to ſend a ſon to me, when they were informed by a Governor of the School that they could not *pay* for their education without doing a very great injury. However, to this information they paid very little regard, and refuſed to ſend their ſons till I conſented to make my charge. Thus unpleaſantly ſituated, I appealed to the Right Reverend Viſitor, whether I had a right to take boarders or not? His Lordſhip was clearly of opinion that I had a right. This opinion was given in preſence of the Governors convened at the palace on another matter nearly allied to and congenial with the two preceding attempts. This comes now to be adverted to.

A meſſage

A meſſage was ſent to me from the Governors by their ſervant the late Thomas Moore, Auguſt the 9th, 1774, attended by Mr. John Bull, at whoſe houſe the Governors then were, *that my ſalary of eighty pounds a year, was from that time to be reduced to fifty.* No reaſon was given for their taking this ſtep; this would have been too kind, as it would have put me out of a ſtate of ſuſpence. This daring meaſure gave offence to the gentlemen of the neighbourhood as well as of the town, by whom the following petition to the Right Rev. Viſitor was ſigned, and ſpeedily preſented to his Lordſhip:

" To the Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of
" Bath and Wells.

" May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,

" WE, the principal inhabitants of the town and " neighbourhood of Bruton in the county of So- " merſet, beg leave to petition your Lordſhip in a " matter of the greateſt importance to this town and " neighbourhood, to the preſent age, and poſterity.

" As we cannot but admire the wiſdom of the " Royal Founder of the Grammar-School in this " town, in conſtituting by charter the Lord Biſhop

" of

" of Bath and Wells for the time being the Viſitor
" of the School, with the gracious deſign that his
" Lordſhip might check and reſtrain the illegal or
" otherwiſe improper conduct of the Governors of
" the School, ſo we think ourſelves peculiarly happy
" in having at this critical juncture (when innova-
" tions of, we conceive, dangerous tendency are in-
" troducing by the preſent *not legal* number of
" Governors) a Viſitor to petition of acknowledged
" abilities in tranſacting buſineſs, and of zealous
" inclinations to promote uſeful learning.

" By the charter, my Lord, your petitioners ap-
" prehend the Governors of the School are obliged
" to elect a new Governor or Governors in the place
" of any one or more who ſhall die, or remove from
" the town and pariſh of Bruton to reſide, at a
" meeting immediately ſubſequent to either of ſuch
" events. This has been the invariable rule, as
" your Lordſhip's petitioners believe, obſerved by
" the Governors from the foundation of the ſchool
" till within four or five years paſt, as often as a
" vacancy has been made by death. Where va-
" cancies have been made by removal, it is appre-
" hended that modern Governors have not been
" ſo exact in filling ſuch vacancies, as the charter
" ſeems to require. But not to fill vacancies in

" caſes

" caſes of death your Lordſhip's petitioners be-
" lieve is without precedent, and an innovation
" brought in by the preſent Governors.

" There are now five vacancies; of which two
" have been made by removal, and three by death.
" The major part of thoſe vacancies has ſubſiſted
" for ſeveral years, during which period not a ſingle
" Governor has been elected, though the preſent
" Governors have been repeatedly called on to
" proceed to an election.

" At a meeting of the Governors, about October
" 1776, Mr. George Cox, at that time a Governor,
" recommended it to the body of Governors to fill
" the vacancies, and propoſed the Earl of Ilcheſter,
" an inhabitant of the pariſh, to be by them elected.
" Mr. Cox's motion was negatived. At their
" ſummer meeting in 1777, Mr. Cox again pro-
" poſed the Earl of Ilcheſter. A negative was
" again put on Mr. Cox's motion; to which the
" then ſenior warden, Mr. Gerard Martin, added,
" that *there were Governors enough already to do*
" *the buſineſs*.

" In this ſituation, my Lord, things are at pre-
" ſent. The ill conſequences of not filling the

" vacancies are already manifeſt: the rents from " the eſtates belonging to the ſchool, that have till " lately been always adequate to the annual pay- " ments and outgoings, are now found to fall " greatly ſhort. The Maſter's ſalary remains un- " paid; the School-houſe is out of repair. The " Governors plead an inability for want of money " to repair the one, or to pay the other. Your " Lordſhip's petitioners do not mean to determine " preciſely the reaſon of ſuch the conduct of the " Governors. But at the ſame time they cannot " but apprehend that ſome latent cauſe influences " their proceedings, which they cannot conceive to " be for the benefit and advantage of their truſt and " the publick.

" Your petitioners rely on your Lordſhip's good- " neſs for making uſe of that authority, with which " your Lordſhip is inveſted by the Royal charter, " in order to give your petitioners ſuch relief and " aſſiſtance in the above matter as the neceſſity " of the caſe ſeems to require.

" Your Lordſhip's petitioners cannot conceive " that the haſty opinion of the late ſenior warden, " that *there are Governors enough already to do the* " *buſineſs*, can with any degree of propriety or " decency

" decency be ſet in competition with the ſolemn " determination of the Royal founder, aſſiſted by " his Privy Council, who were pleaſed to fix on " *twelve of the more ſubſtantial inhabitants of the* " *town and pariſh of Bruton*, as the moſt proper " number for tranſacting the buſineſs of the ſchool " *by and with the advice of the Lord Biſhop of Bath* " *and Wells*.

" Your Lordſhip, by directing the Governors to " fill the preſent vacancies, will merit the ſincere " thanks of this town and neighbourhood, and " convey unſullied in their proper channels to diſ- " tant ages thoſe fountains of liberality and uſeful " learning, which the piety of King Edward the " Sixth opened, and commanded to flow for the " good of mankind in general, and of this town " and neighbourhood in particular " *from time to* " *time for ever.*"

From the above petition the proceedings of the Governors, and the ſentiments of the public reſpecting their proceedings, ſtand forward equally conſpicuous. And the neceſſity for its inſertion will, I truſt, be an apology for me with my Lord Ilcheſter for the mention of his Lordſhip's name with ſuch proceedings. The late Mr. George Cox was of

opinion that the election of my Lord Ilcheſter into the government would be the means of ſetting the ſchool affairs on a reſpectable footing. It was thought neceſſary that I ſhould wait on his Lordſhip, to aſk his permiſſion that Mr. Cox might propoſe his Lordſhip to the Governors at their next meeting. After hearing how matters ſtood, his Lordſhip, in the moſt obliging and condeſcending ing manner, replied, that if he could be of any ſervice to the ſchool, he had no objection to being propoſed as a Governor.

The ſequel I wiſh to get rid of in few words. My Lord Ilcheſter was rejected, and Mr. William James and Mr. Joſeph Palmer were choſen. Such a procedure wants no comment. It is no ſooner read, than a man tranſlates it inſtantly into the plaineſt Engliſh: O luſt of ſway, what havock haſt thou not made in human affairs!

The reader will be beforehand with me in aſking this queſtion, Is not my Lord Ilcheſter at this time a Governor? To this queſtion the preſent derangement and confuſion are a full anſwer. But in conſequence of his Lordſhip's kind offer of aſſiſtance at the above intereſting criſis, has no ſubſequent compliment been paid him by the preſent leading

family

family in our ſcholaſtic affairs? To the beſt of my knowledge and belief the opportunity even of a refuſal to be elected has been denied to his Lordſhip, but not for want of vacancies.

——— *Pudet hæc opprobria nobis*
*Et dici potuiſſe, et non potuiſſe refelli.*

I beg my reader's permiſſion to go on with this digreſſion one ſtep further. It has not eſcaped the notice of gentlemen, that ſix of the preſent Governors are of *one family*. This family, by the aſſiſtance of one or two other Governors, whom prudential motives of a private nature may be ſuppoſed to influence in taking their reſolutions, are in truth and fact the ſole Governors of the School. Now though ſuch elections are not chargeable with illegality, delicacy and propriety were not conſulted on thoſe occaſions; who, if they really are in the picture, are thrown ſo far into the back-ground, as to be by no means perceptible by a common eye. In ſhort, wherever ſuch an aſcendancy is gained in the management of a public charity by one family, as has been gained by two families in immediate ſucceſſion in the direction of this ſchool for now about nineteen years, the conſequences to be expected are ſuch as have actually enſued here during all that period.

period. Nor will the conſideration be, whether an unlettered man in extreme poverty is likely to do more ſervice to the public as a Governor than a Peer of the Realm, but whether he is more likely to concur with his electors in all their meaſures.

But to proceed. To the truth of the contents of the following paper, Mr. Sampſon, now a Governor, was ready to bear teſtimony in any manner. There is every reaſon to think that he did teſtify the truth of the whole, or of its moſt intereſting parts, in an interview with the Right Reverend Viſitor at the palace, where Mr. Sampſon kindly attended for the ſole purpoſe of throwing light on ſome miſrepreſentations and unjuſtifiable proceedings.

" Whereas Thomas Sampſon, ſurgeon, a prin-
" cipal inhabitant of Bruton in the county of So-
" merſet, has been aſſured that ſeveral informations
" have been laid with the Right Reverend the
" Lord Biſhop of Bath and Wells, which are not
" conformable to truth, and which ſaid informa-
" tions tend greatly to injure the reputation of the
" Rev. Edward Michell as Maſter of the Free
" Grammar-School in Bruton, and to deprive him
" of that aſſiſtance from the Lord Biſhop of Bath

" and

" and Wells, which it is in the power of his Lord-
" ſhip as Viſitor to give; this deponent therefore,
" in order to undeceive his Lordſhip, and to do
" juſtice to a man, who ſince the death of the late
" Lord Berkeley has been repeatedly inſulted and
" oppreſſed by the Governors of the School, volun-
" tarily declareth and ſaith, that the ſaid Edward
" Michell from the time of his being elected Maſter
" to the preſent has, as this deponent verily be-
" lieves, diſcharged his duty regularly and faithfully
" towards every individual committed to his charge
" as Maſter of the School. That the ſaid depo-
" nent had a nephew near ſix years under the care
" and tuition of the ſaid Edward Michell at the
" ſaid ſchool: that the ſaid Edward Michell faith-
" fully diſcharged, as this deponent believes, his
" obligations to his ſaid nephew. That his nephew
" has frequently expreſſed to this deponent and
" others, ſince he left the ſchool, a grateful ſenſe of
" his obligations to the ſaid Maſter for his care in
" inſtructing him, and conduct in every other re-
" ſpect towards him. That this deponent believes
" that every perſon, who has ſent a boy or boys to
" the ſchool is willing to teſtify that the ſaid Maſ-
" ter's conduct has been in all reſpects ſtrictly
" proper from the time of his being elected Maſter
" to the preſent. That inſtead of depriving the

boys

" boys reſorting to the ſchool of the green to amuſe
" themſelves in, or of any other convenience be-
" longing to the premiſes, (as it has been, this de-
" ponent apprehends, ſuggeſted) he knows that the
" ſaid Edward Michell has been at a very great
" expence in putting the green into decent order
" for the accommodation of all the boys frequenting
" the ſaid ſchool, and that the green is in better
" condition now than the deponent ever knew it,
" though he has known it many years. And this
" deponent knows, as from his ſituation he is an
" almoſt daily witneſs to the truth of it, that all
" the boys frequenting the ſaid ſchool from the
" time the ſaid Edward Michell was elected Maſter
" to the preſent, have conſtantly been permitted to
" uſe the green as a place of diverſion, unleſs, for a
" fault committed, any of them have ſubjected
" themſelves to the puniſhment of a temporary ex-
" cluſion. And further, this deponent believes,
" (he having been thus informed by his nephew,
" who was a member of the ſchool when a new
" deſk was brought) that the Rev. Mr. Hall was
" the firſt objector (to whoſe opinion the Governors
" then preſent in the ſchool aſſented after ſome he-
" ſitation) to having the deſk placed in the moſt
" proper part of the ſchool, though a general re-
" queſt of all the boys was made to the Rev. Mr.
" Hall

" Hall and to the ſaid Governors, ſignifying that " the deſk would be uſeleſs where the ſaid Mr. " Hall was about to place it, on account of the ex- " ceſſive cold and damp from the walls in that part " of the ſchool during the winter;—that, ſo far " from Mr. Michell's inſulting the governors on " that occaſion, he was not in the ſchool with the " Governors during any part of the time they were " there. And further, this deponent believes that " the ſaid Edward Michell has been injured by a " report propagated by Mr. Gerard Martin, that " the ſaid Maſter was to be turned out of his office, " this deponent having been informed by gentle- " men of fortune and character that the ſaid Mr. " Martin has propagated ſuch a report. And fur- " ther, this deponent believes, that the ſaid Maſter " has been inſulted and ill-treated by the Go- " vernors of the ſchool in ſeveral inſtances ſince " the death of the late Lord Berkeley: all which " this deponent believes the Maſter has borne with- " out retaliating, ſo as to exaſperate or affront the " Governors in any reſpect. And this deponent " further believes, that the Governors have ſpent a " great part of the ſchool-money unneceſſarily, tho' " their plea for not paying the Maſter his ſalary is " poverty, and though the ſchool-houſe in many " parts is in very bad condition."

The

The following paper was ſigned and preſented to the Right Reverend Viſitor, in conſequence of an information given in to his Lordſhip *that there was not a ſingle boy educateng at the ſchool*, at a time when there really was a pretty good number of boys educating here. The information was given by a Governor. But as the intended injury is of a more private nature than many other preceding ones, and is calculated to affect myſelf only, the neceſſity of mentioning his name again is not urgent. He is gone from us never to return. May his good deeds follow him, and procure him a happy reception; and may the compaſſion of the recording angel drop that tear on his infirmities, which may blot them out for ever. A letter to myſelf from the Right Reverend Viſitor ſoon followed this information, which his Lordſhip had received: from hence originated the ſubſequent addreſs:

" To the Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of
" Bath and Wells.

" My Lord,

" We whoſe names are hereunto ſubſcribed,
" principal inhabitants of the town of Bruton in
" the county of Somerſet, having been informed
" that it has been repreſented to your Lordſhip
" that

" that the preſent Maſter of the Grammar-School " in this town *has for ſome time received his ſalary* " *for doing nothing, as he has not a ſingle boy to in-* " *ſtruct*, beg leave to undeceive your Lordſhip in " that particular, and to declare, that though not a " ſingle boy had been inſtructed in the ſaid Gram- " mar-School for many years, till the appointment " of the preſent Maſter, yet from the time of his " being appointed to the day of the date hereof, " without intermiſſion, the boys of the town, and " frequently thoſe of the adjacent pariſhes, have re- " ſorted to the ſaid ſchool, and have been conſtantly " and regularly inſtructed by the preſent Maſter in " Grammar and Grammar-learning on the terms " and conditions preſcribed by the charter, that is, " as free boys. To the truth of the above aſſer- " tion the whole body of the inhabitants of the " town, as well as the parents and friends of thoſe " boys who are at preſent receiving their educa- " tion at the ſaid ſchool, are able to bear teſtimony, " if ſuch their teſtimony ſhall be required or deemed " expedient by your Lordſhip.

" BRUTON, " *T. Sampſon,*
" *Aug.* 8, 1778. " *L. Dampier.*"

But we will for a moment ſuppoſe the informa- tion alluded to in the addreſs to have been true, would

would it appear a matter of wonder to the reader, if not even one boy had been found remaining at the ſchool after ſo many repeated efforts made to injure it? Was it not natural for the neighbourhood thus to reaſon:—" The Governors of the School, " who are by their office bound in duty to cheriſh " and protect their ſchool, muſt certainly be in- " fluenced by very particular motives for acting " thus in oppoſition to it?" This is no more than a juſt and logical concluſion; for the Governor of a ſchool is but another word for its Guardian. Whether any fault on the part of the Maſter was publickly alledged by the Governors in vindication of their own conduct, I have never heard. But at a meeting of the Governors (the laſt, as well as my memory informs me, at which I was preſent with the late Mr. Martin) that gentleman, in the preſence and hearing of the Governors, fully explained the motives for their paſt conduct. If the following are not the exact words he made uſe of to me, they convey his preciſe meaning: *Mr. Michell, none of thoſe diſagreeable matters, which have happened, would have happened, had you attended our meetings.* It is neceſſary to add, that I conſtantly attended the meetings of the Governors, as long as, nay longer than I found myſelf treated with propriety. And one is apt to think that ſuch an unremitting

remitting oppoſition for ſo long a courſe of years to every effort I could make, an oppoſition which on the moſt moderate computation has coſt me two thouſand pounds, will be deemed a penalty rather too ſevere for the omiſſion of a compliment, which the treatment that I met with from the Governors rendered it impoſſible (as the leading Governors well knew) for me to pay, without being very deſervedly held up as an object of ridicule, for petitioning, in the language of the third hero of the Tale of a Tub, "Worthy Sirs, do me the "honour of another good ſlap in the chaps!" But I had received too many unmerited ſlaps already at their meetings: I felt myſelf ſore; I had been inſulted, and refuſed to ſubject myſelf to further inſults.

"The very head and front of my offending
"Has this extent, no more."

For this *offence* in the language of Governors, but which, I truſt, the reader will call by another name, for this *negative offence* (for non-attendance at meetings where I had not the leaſt grain, particle, or atom of buſineſs to tranſact, is the ſole imputation,—is the whole amount of the charge) the School-houſe has been ſuffered to become ruinous

to

to ſuch a degree, as that buckets have been neceſſarily placed for a long continuance as receptacles for the rain deſcending through the tiles and ceiling into our ſleeping-rooms.

For this offence a report has been induſtriouſly propagated that *the Maſter was* on a fixed day *to be turned out of his office.*

For this offence a right of taking boarders has been denied to the maſter.

For this offence gentlemen of conſiderable fortune have been informed, that they cannot pay for the education of their ſons here without doing a very great injury to the ſchool.

For this offence the ſum of thirty pounds a year, purchaſed by the bounty of the late Lord Berkeley of the Governors of the School by his Lordſhip's payment of their debt of 250l. for the expreſs purpoſe of benefiting the preſent Maſter, was taken from him ſoon after his Lordſhip's death, nor was it reſtored till the Governors compelled the Maſter to make his appeal to the Right Reverend Viſitor. Gratitude forbids me to withhold the following anecdote:—" By ſome, I know not what, means the

the knowledge of this detention of my ſalary had reached the late Henry Hoare, eſq; of Stourhead, with whoſe real friendſhip I was honoured in this and other inſtances. Mr. Meſſiter one day called at my houſe, and acquainted me that he was directed by Mr. Hoare to take every neceſſary ſtep in my defence againſt the Governors of the ſchool.

For this offence, falſe information was given to the Right Reverend Viſitor of the School, that not a ſingle boy was educating here, at a time when there really was a pretty good number at the ſchool.

And for this offence the Maſter has been maligned, diſtreſſed, harraſſed, and worried; his efforts been defeated; his property been invaded; and a flouriſhing ſchool of his own raiſing been reduced to that wretched ſtate in which he found it.

Here I muſt intrude on the reader's patience, and requeſt him to go back with me to that period, at which the Right Reverend Viſitor determined the matter reſpecting my ſalary, and my right of taking boarders, both in my favour. On both theſe ſubjects his Lordſhip delivered his ſentiments in the preſence of the Governors and the Maſter. After theſe deciſions the Governors acquainted his Lordſhip

Lordſhip that they had an engine belonging to the ſchool, which had till then been always kept in the church; that they thought it right that the Maſter ſhould have the moſt eaſy acceſs to it in caſe of a fire happening in his houſe, and propoſed that the Maſter ſhould give up half of the only outhouſe on the premiſes for the purpoſe of placing the engine in; that they would divide the outhouſe by a partition wall; and, that it might ſtill be uſeful to the public, that they would have a door placed towards the ſtreet for getting out the engine at; and that the Maſter's family might not be diſturbed unneceſſarily for his key of the houſe, in caſe of a fire in the town by night, that a ſecond key ſhould be placed in the hands of the man who had the care of the engine. I could with leſs inconvenience have parted with any room in my houſe than this. And I was then almoſt as fully aſſured as I am now, that inconvenience to me was the only motive by which the Governors were actuated in making the propoſal: they knew this outhouſe to be perpetually full of cyder, coals, wood, &c. But for the ſake of giving no further trouble to his Lordſhip on a buſineſs of *ſuch* a nature, I granted their requeſt. The partition was built, and the door ſet up. Will the man of candour, will the fair-dealing man, give me credit, when I tell him that, notwithſtanding

ing my repeated applications for a key, the Governors refuſed me a key during the whole ſeven or eight years for which they were in poſſeſſion of this houſe? But ſuch is the fact.

The following ſhort letter from me to the late Mr. Martin, will be a proof of my application to two ſenior wardens.

" *Bruton, April* 11, 1778.

" SIR,

" The School-houſe, which at my coming into " it, you as ſenior warden then engaged ſhould be " painted once in two years, is now, you may ima- " gine, for want of painting, in very bad condition. " The great gate, which the late Lord Berkeley " gave us, the ſhoots, and the rails before the houſe, " will, if not painted ſoon, become rotten. The " other repairs I have in general terms acquainted " you with long ſince. The intention of my giv- " ing up part of an outhouſe belonging to me, for " the purpoſe of having the engine near me in caſe " of a fire, has not been anſwered, as I have hitherto " had no key ſent me. I made a perſonal applica- " tion for a key to Mr. Hall, when ſenior warden, " who, for reaſons beſt known to himſelf, was far " above condeſcending to give me an anſwer. This



" application

" application was made, when there was at that in-
" ſtant a fire at Diſcove, and half the town was
" applying to me for the key of the houſe.

" I am, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,

" EDWARD MICHELL."

" *To Gerard Martin, eſq.*

On finding myſelf thus artfully defrauded of a room by the violation of a compact clear and undiſputed, (I uſe the word *defrauded* as moſt applicable of any, I can at preſent recollect, to the tranſaction) and on feeling myſelf reduced to great inconvenience through the want of it, I conſidered myſelf, after ſuch a violation of the compact for a ſeries of years, as indiſputably warranted in the reſumption of my property thus artfully invaded and illegally withheld. I ſay withheld *illegally*; for, by *a legal* appointment, all the premiſes are mine; and through the infringement of the above compact on the part of the Governors (a compact which cannot be denied, for this was not a tranſaction in private between the Governors and myſelf *only*) from the day on which the firſt refuſal of a key was made, and acceſs to the engine was denied, from that day the compact became void, the right of reſumption reverted

reverted to me, a right as legal as it was apparently equitable. The eaſieſt method I judged the beſt; and therefore did not order the partition to be taken down. To the Rev. Mr. John Goldeſbrough, the ſenior warden, I applied, and deſired him to order it to be taken down. After being acquainted with the condition of the agreement, on which I granted the uſe of the room to the Governors, (for when it was granted, Mr. Goldeſbrough was not a Governor) he ordered workmen to take down the partition and to remove the engine. This the workmen omitted to do for two or three weeks, when Mr. Goldeſbrough iſſued a ſecond order, which was immediately executed. At a meeting of the Governors, which I was preſent at by the particular invitation of the ſenior warden Mr. L. Dampier, and at which were likewiſe preſent the only two that remained of the old ſet of Governors, which meeting was held, I believe, not many months after the engine was by Mr. Goldeſbrough's direction removed; Mr. Goldeſbrough aſſerted, in my preſence, that the taking down the partition and removal of the engine were quite a temporary buſineſs, and that I was to give up the room to the Governors again, if they ſhould ever want it. I could not forbear to expreſs my aſtoniſhment to Mr. Goldeſbrough at his aſſertion and want of reſolu-

tion; for to that cauſe I then imputed his conduct, as it had been heard that the two ſenior Governors had taken his order for the removal of the engine in dudgeon. Since that meeting, Mr. Goldeſbrough, I have been informed, has continued to aſſert what he then aſſerted, and to add, *that I promiſed to give up the room and to rebuild the partition at my own expence at the expiration of two or three months, during which time I wanted it for a particular purpoſe.* The purpoſe for which I *then* wanted it, I acquainted Mr. Goldeſbrough with. I went to him with a determination to reſume the room, whether Mr. Goldeſbrough ſhould give or withhold his conſent. Who is there, that in ſimilar circumſtances would not have determined on the ſame meaſure? The only part of the converſation neceſſary to be mentioned is this: The form of words I pretend not to remember; their exact and preciſe purport was what follows: Mr. Goldeſbrough's queſtion to me was, Whether, if the Governors ſhould want the room again, and I ſhould not want it, I would let them have it? My anſwer was, That there never would be a time when I ſhould not be in *very great want* of it. And I here make this declaration as a man and a clergyman, that I never made Mr. Goldeſbrough during our converſation a promiſe to give up the room, and that ſuch a thought was the

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fartheſt from my heart, and ſuch language from my tongue.

But let us ſee whether a moment's reaſoning will not lead us to the diſcovery of the truth in this caſe. If I was to rebuild the partition at my own expence (and here again I ſolemnly declare that not a word ever paſſed between Mr. Goldeſbrough and myſelf relative to its being rebuilt by me or by any other perſon,) how happens it that the Governors were at the expence of taking it down? Does Mr. Goldeſbrough mean that there were two agreements, and that it was ſtipulated that the Governors ſhould pay for taking it down on the condition of my rebuilding it? Or, will he have us underſtand that I engaged with him to take down the partition at my own coſt, and refuſed afterwards to fulfil ſuch engagement?

Again, what a rent was I by this account to have paid for this half of an outhouſe for two, three, or four months, if to rebuild the partition (I ſpeak from conjecture only, and not as a man well-informed) was to have coſt me about four pounds?

But the grand argument that no ſuch compact *de novo* between us ever really exiſted is this: The

ground on which I ſtood at the time of my applying to Mr. Goldeſbrough, is ſeen to be firm, and ſuch as would ſupport me. An agreement had been entered into between the old ſet of Governors and myſelf. The condition, on which I granted them the uſe of the outhouſe, had been on their part violated confeſſedly. The agreement of courſe became void. To this I was no ſtranger, nor was I inſenſible of the impropriety of conduct made uſe of towards me. Is it ſuppoſeable then, without ſuppoſing one of the greateſt abſurdities, that I ſhould exchange the firm ground on which I ſtood, for that which would ſink under me? that I ſhould apply for *leave* to make uſe of this room for a few months, and after that time give the Governors a right of reſuming it *ad libitum?* My ſituation, ſeen in this point of view, precludes, in my conception, the poſſibility of my entering into further agreements with the Governors; more eſpecially while I ſaw two of the former ſet remaining, with appetites as keen as if they had never taken one ſlice from my peace and comfort, and which ſeemed to increaſe from feeding.

But it matters not, I mean as far as it bears relation to the ſubject of my ſalary, where the truth lies; for on my calling on the late ſenior warden,

Mr.

Mr. Dampier, to require the payment of my ſalary, he frankly made this declaration, *Whether you are right with reſpect to the affair of the outhouſe, or Mr. Goldeſbrough, is of no conſequence, for we are as obſtinate as you, and are determined never to pay you your ſalary without law, till you give up the room.* Whatever his words were, ſuch was their preciſe meaning.

But in the name of candor, in the name of common ſenſe, in the name of common juſtice, and in the name of whatever bears but even the moſt *diſtant* relation to either of the three, from whence originates this omnipotence of our Governors? From what ſource is this their abſolute dominion derived? By what authority has the unlimited power of reſcinding the legal acts of their predeceſſors been delegated to them? By what law is the Maſter's freehold at this comfortable diſtance from Paris demanded? By what charter or appointment is his ſalary withheld? Has the Maſter ſhrunk from his duty? has he neglected to do that juſtice to thoſe under his care, which all have a right to expect from him? To theſe two laſt queſtions an anſwer will come with greater propriety and delicacy from the gentlemen educated at the ſchool, many of whom in the different profeſſions are now

ſettled

ſettled in this neighbourhood, than from the Maſter himſelf.

The truth is, the Governors, from the death of Lord Berkeley, during whoſe life, peace and happineſs reſided among us, have all along appeared to conceive the obligations between themſelves and the Maſter of the ſchool to be of a peculiar ſpecies, namely, as obligatory on him, but not on them. Their proceedings have manifeſtly diſallowed a reciprocity of obligations, and an aſſumed ſuperiority has marked their conduct. Hence, inſtead of viewing themſelves in the light of perſons appointed by the Royal charter, as coadjutors with the Maſter in promoting a work of the firſt importance in the opinion of educated men, their chief occupation has been a conſtant and uniform endeavour to diſturb the peace and quiet of the Maſter, thoſe grand requiſites for the due performance of his duty, and to take up no inconſiderable portion of his time in getting his houſe repaired and his ſalary paid, which has been at many and various times detained without the leaſt reaſon given for ſo arbitrary and illegal a meaſure. A ſtrong proof this of the neceſſity that the *leading* men at leaſt among the Governors or Truſtees of a Grammar-School ſhould be men of letters and education; for want of whoſe foſter-

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ing hand many a public ſeminary, that would have, under their guidance, illuminated a whole diſtrict, has dwindled into inſignificance, and remained uſeleſs for perhaps half a century.

The line of conduct purſued by the preſent Governors and the Maſter towards each other, will be exhibited in as clear a point of view, from the following tranſaction, as from any other that at preſent occurs to me:

In the year 1785, the late Mr. Ludwell Dampier, as ſenior warden, invited me to dine with the Governors at their meeting. Endeavouring to forget what was paſt, I went. After dinner Mr. Sampſon was ſaying that it was rather inconvenient that the cheſt, containing writings and other papers relative to the affairs of the ſchool, ſhould be carried annually from the houſe of one ſenior warden to that of his ſucceſſor, and therefore aſked me, whether it was inconvenient that the cheſt ſhould be depoſited in a room in my houſe. Seeing this propoſal agreeable to the Governors in general, I, without heſitation, replied, *You are welcome to make choice of any room in my houſe for this purpoſe.* They made choice of a room. Within a few days they ſent a carpenter, who put a lock on the door, locked

locked it, and went off. Can the liberal-minded man form the moſt diſtant conjecture, what return was made me for ſuch my readineſs to oblige? He muſt be informed, for *gueſs* he cannot. From the day on which the door was locked by the carpenter in 1785 to the preſent, no Governors, or any other perſon for them, have been near the room, no cheſt, or one ſingle article of any kind, has been depoſited in the room, but it has remained locked, and I have been excluded from this part of my own houſe, for above ſeven years. Now was a man to analize this treatment by a rational proceſs, he would find its conſtituent parts or firſt principles reduced to, I believe, nearly equal quantities of a certain exotick named *Stat pro ratione voluntas*. This is of a noxious quality; and the preſent pitiable ſtate of a great Monarch is thought to be owing to his having ſucked in an improper quantity of it: it acts like the kava mentioned by Captain Cooke, which intoxicates and brings forth blotches over the body: indeed this laſt effect has been for ſome time expected to appear on the body of the above unhappy Monarch.

Of *puerility*; which is ſolely adapted to the conſtitutions and temperaments of young people, and improper to be uſed by adults, and more eſpecially by people advanced in years.

Of *cunning*, which is marvellouſly congruous and ſerviceable to creatures beneath man, but is never preſcribed except by empiricks for the human ſpecies; as *regularly-bred phyſicians* are fully convinced that though it may ſerve a preſent purpoſe and afford a little temporary relief, the effects, which it leaves behind it, on the *vital and more noble parts*, are always dreadfully ſhocking.

Of *ripened malevolence*, or, in the language of the faculty, *malice*. This is the worſt and moſt deadly ſpecies of the *night-ſhade*, and wonderful and deſtructive is it in its operations. It poſſeſſes *this* peculiarity, that if a man has a plant of it in his *trunk*, it ſhall not only rack him almoſt to death, but he can, by *opening* his trunk let out its effluvia, which (as when Pandora's box was opened) ſhall infect at any diſtance whatever, and be deſtructive of the happineſs of good and bad, fair and foul, without diſtinction.

Was I to give a catalogue of the indignities, with which the Governors have been pleaſed to honour me from the death of Lord Berkeley, for reaſons, of which my reader is equally conſcious with myſelf, and I might truly add, equally conſcious with the Governors, ſuch a catalogue would protract

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this narrative to a nauſeating length, nor would it tend to convince the public of more than I truſt they are fully convinced of from the preceding pages.

As a proof that no *good* reaſons for perſecution ever ſubſiſted, a motive of a very different nature from boaſting compels me to make known the declaration of Mr. Harry Albin Martin, made in the year 1785 at a meeting of the Governors, and made in their preſence and in mine: "Mr. Michell has "diſcharged his duty as Maſter of the ſchool with "integrity and abilities." Not a diſſentient voice was heard. Juſtice influenced Mr. Martin to make this declaration, and not friendſhip.

My conduct as Maſter of this ſchool dares the light: I wiſh it to be ſcann'd minutely and critically, "without extenuation, without malice."—To ſuperior abilities the knowledge of myſelf, as well as common prudence, will ever keep me from ſetting up pretenſions. On the other hand, moſt deſervedly ſhould I incur public cenſure, did I not know myſelf equal to the duties of my office in this place. How difficult a taſk is it to ſpeak of one's ſelf with propriety! For my attendance on my duty, and attention during its performance, I beg leave to refer the reader to the gentlemen around

around us, who have been educated here. They are in truth the moſt competent judges both of the abilities and integrity of a Maſter.

Unchecked violence of temper will precipitate a man into a temporary phrenzy. However, if it is a matter of amuſement to the violent among us to bandy about reputations during the criſis of the diſeaſe, right-welcome are they to make a ſhuttle-cock of my reputation for *abilities*, and to verberate and reverberate it, till not even a poor ſolitary feather remains. In this caſe I have only to inform them, during their lucid intervals, that their amuſement is unmanly and illiberal; and that, however cautiouſly their piece, their engine of deſtruction may be levelled at me, it cannot fail of hitting at the ſame time this town and neighbourhood, and that it may ultimately recoil on themſelves; for the man, whoſe tongue is armed againſt every one, muſt be ſottiſhly ſtupid in wondering that every one's tongue is armed againſt him: in this caſe he may be well aſſured the world will be ever ready to do him ample juſtice; and indeed

——— *nec lex eſt juſtior ulla,*
*Quam necis artifices arte perire ſua.*

But there is a reputation of another kind, which every man, who deſerves that name, values as his firſt,

firſt, his moſt precious poſſeſſion, be his others what they may. No man can or ſhould permit an unmerited attack to be made on his integrity, honour, or veracity, without expreſſing a full ſenſe of the injury in terms of the warmeſt reſentment againſt the vile traducer, the baſe aſſailant. Should then any of the ſons of violence among us find himſelf diſpoſed to charge me with neglecting the regular performance of my duty as Maſter of this ſchool, at any period from the time of my firſt appointment to this day, or with having violated any compact entered into between the Governors and myſelf, or between any ſenior warden their repreſentative and myſelf, or with having done any one act that could reaſonably irritate the Governors, or give them juſt cauſe of offence, he injures me moſt baſely: I am conſcious of nothing of the kind, or that bears the moſt diſtant reſemblance to it: nor in ſuch circumſtances will the world, I truſt, impute to me a breach of decorum, while I addreſs and take my leave of the creature, who is capable of thus meanly degrading himſelf, in the words of the honeſt author* of the Hiſtory of the Council of Trent, " *Mentiris* " *impudentiſſime.*"

A word or two more, and I have done. The only charge brought againſt the Maſter by the former

* Father Paul.

former Governors was a ſin of omiſſion, to which nothing leſs than the ruin of the ſchool was deemed an adequate puniſhment.

To dine with the Governors is certainly not a part of my duty. But ſtill I always conſidered it as a compliment due in return for their compliment of invitation. Nor did I refrain from paying my reſpects to them, as long as I found myſelf treated with common propriety.

The *oſtenſible* offence againſt the preſent Governors is the Maſter's reſumption of a room, which is his own by law, equity, and reaſon. For this (and for a few private cauſes with which two-thirds at leaſt of the Governors are utterly unacquainted) his ſalary has been withheld from Midſummer 1790. It is proper to add, that the Maſter has made the Governors an offer of a bit of ground, equally convenient in all reſpects with the preſent room, for the purpoſe of building a ſhed on for their engine. This they have refuſed. It is neceſſary to ſubjoin, that a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who has a family, told the Maſter not many months ſince, and told it to others before, that had he twenty ſons, he ſhould never ſend one of them to him, while his ſalary remained unpaid. Thus has this truly

truly Royal endowment been devoted for many years to inſignificance through the unreaſonable caprice of thoſe, who have been by the relation which they have borne to it, bound in duty to the public, to the preſent age, and to poſterity, to give it their whole weight and influence, and to protect, ſupport, and cheriſh it with activity, with energy; to guard the revenues of its eſtates with at leaſt the ſame care and circumſpection, with which their private property is guarded, and to permit no ill-timed neglect on the part of artificers, by which the truſt may be *injured materially*, and which they would deem inadmiſſible in their own concerns. For the conſcientious diſcharge of ſuch duties, and a variety of others, the public have an equitable and undoubted claim on the truſtees of every public charity. And a well-grounded application from the public to the guardian of charities for a neglect of duty, or for other improprieties, has never failed of proving a ſalutary and effectual remedy.

I beg the reader's indulgence for a minute or two longer.

This ſchool, if properly conducted, muſt be viewed as a grand luminary ſet up to diffuſe light through a whole nation. Its revenues are worthy the

the origin from whence they ſprung: they reflect honour even on the Royal Founder. Through ſuch revenues the moſt reſpectable abilities in a Maſter may be procured from either Univerſity. From ſuch revenues exhibitions may be founded, enabling thoſe pupils of the ſchool, who ſtand in need of them, to proceed in their future ſtudies without embarraſſment. From ſuch exhibitions, ſuperior talents will of courſe be brought forward, which muſt otherwiſe have lain under the hand of chilling poverty, undiſtinguiſhed and uſeleſs. From ſuch exhibitions, for which there will be conſtant competitors, and which will thence prove an incitement to literary exertions, the ſchool will fill, its reputation be eſtabliſhed, and the benevolent deſign of the Royal Founder be fully anſwered. And from ſuch revenues the ſchool-houſe may be rendered a proper reſidence for the ſons of our firſt families, and not remain in a ſtate diſhonourable to the Founder, through an implication of a *deficiency* of revenue to ſupport it with propriety, which is far, very far from being the caſe.

Upon the whole, it is not an eaſy matter to aſcertain by what motives the Governors have been hitherto influenced, or to what good end their proceedings have had a tendency. The ancient form

of government, coeval probably with the ſchool, was ſubverted two years ſince, during the ſenior-wardenſhip of the Rev. Mr. Richard Goldeſbrough, who made a voluntary reſignation of the duties of his office, as far as they related to the Maſter and the repairs of the School-houſe. From that time the Maſter has been denied acceſs to the ſenior-warden. Nor would the laſt-mentioned gentleman deign to receive a letter from the Maſter on ſchool affairs, when he was in office, but remitted it unopened. Threats have occaſionally been held forth that our Royal Seminary is to be reduced to a *Writing-School*, which is judged to be more *eſſentially ſerviceable*. But during the continuance of the preſent ſet of gentlemen in the neighbourhood, this degrading project can never be effected. And it is "devoutly to be wiſhed," that the poſterity of the preſent nobility and gentlemen may be taught to look up to this Royal Seminary as to a jewel of ineſtimable value, and to guard it with a watchful and jealous eye:—as to a fountain, from which, if not unreaſonably obſtructed, knowledge, uſeful learning, and conſequent happineſs, will inceſſantly flow on to the moſt diſtant ages.

Of my beſt ſervices and unremitting efforts to render myſelf uſeful in my ſtation, the public may be

be ever aſſured. And opportunities of rendering myſelf *extenſively* ſo would afford me abundant ſatisfaction. My endeavours to raiſe a ſchool have once proved ſucceſsful: and, but for the oppoſition which we have ſeen, we might many years ſince have been happy in *annually* meeting here a reſpectable number of gentlemen educated among us: a thought this that warms the heart. But let us not take a retroſpective view of our affairs: it will prove but as a paſſage through a barren and dreary region, covered only with the galling productions of nature, briars and thorns. Let us rather look forward, not without hopes that the pacific diſpoſitions of many of the Governors may at ſome happy moment be effectual to heal thoſe diviſions, which are too well known to not a few among us to originate from private animoſity unreaſonably conceived. Should the cool reaſoning of thoſe gentlemen have its due weight and influence with their colleagues in the government, peace and order will ſpeedily take again their reſidence among us.—Hence, and hence *alone*, our ſchool may lift up her head with unaſſuming confidence, as feeling herſelf in ſecurity under the protection of her neareſt friends. Such protection may be expected to be productive of conſequences intereſting to all parties; to the Public, to the Governors, to the Maſter.

*P. S.* The

*P. S.* The payment of the Master's salary has been recommended by the HIGHEST AUTHORITY.

SCHOOL-HOUSE,
*Sept. 7th*, 1792.